AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has conveyed its disappointment to Pakistan over the setback to the process of normalisation of relations between India and Pakistan caused by the training and weapons being given by that country to the terrorists; and

(b) if so, what is Pakistan Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Pakistan has blandly denied providing such training and weapons.

Payment of bonus to Central Government Employees

2054. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHODHURY:

SHRI T. CHANDRA SEKHAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to the introduction of the new pay scales for Central Government employees from 1st of January, 1986 a large number of Central Government employees have been deprived of their bonus claims; and

(b) whether Government propose to increase the limit of basic pay to Rs. 3,000/- so that a large number of employees get the benefit of Central bonus and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) Following enhancement in their emoluments as a result of revision of pay scales from 1st of January, 1986, some of the Central Government employees would have crossed the eligibility ceiling of Rs. 2,500/- for payment of bonus.

(b) There is no such proposal at present.

Tobacco lying unsold with traders in Andhra Pradesh

2055. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large quantity of tobacco is lying unsold with the traders in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to purchase the same from the traders; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor and in what manner Government propose to provide relief to the traders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) to (c) As a result of sudden increase in production of FCV tobacco during 1983 and decline in exports that year, certain quantity of tobacco is reported to be lying unsold with the traders in Andhra Pradesh. Tobacco Board undertakes to regulate production, marketing and promote exports of tobacco to avoid such siutations emerging. Every endeavour is made by the Board for the disposal of stocks lying with the traders through exports. Support Price Operations are provided at the time of auctions organised by Board and the stocks are purchased by the Board for which there are no buyers at the minimum support price.

Government will not be able to purchase the stocks lying with the traders.

Consfitution of a board for Sick Uundertakings

2056. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of

FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction was to be appointed under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1986;

(b) if so, what are the details about the constitution of the Board; and

(c) what action has been taken by the Board so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) to (c) The constitution of the Board is under the consideration of Government. When it is set up, it will function under the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985.

P. F. contributions outstanding against industries

2057. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether is it a fact that a number of industries in the country have become defaulters in the matter of Provident Fund contributions;

(b) if so, what is the estimated Provident Fund contribution outstanding against such industries, both exempted and unexempted, including jute industries together with their names; and

(c) what action Government have taken for its recovery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) According to available information, 8593 unexempted establishments were in arrears of provident fund contribution amounting to Rs. 58.30 crores, while 139 exempted establishment had failed to transfer provident fund contribution amounting to Rs. 84.24 crores to their Board of Trustees, as on 31st March, 1986. A statement showing the names of establishments which were in arrears of over rupees one crore as on 31-3-1986 is attached. (*See* below).

(c) The EPF authorities are taking following action for recovery of outstanding dues:—

(i) Revenue Recovery Certificates are being issued under section 8 of the EPF Act;

(ii) Prosecutions are being launched under section 406|409 IPC for non-payment of employees share of contribution deducted from the wages of the employees.

(iii) Prosecutions are being launched under section 14 of the EPF Act;

(iv) Damages are being levied for belated payments under section 14B of the EPF Act.

So far as the jute industry, which accounts for over 3|4th of the total arrears of exempted establishments, is concerned, it has been decided to make a deduction of 8 per cent from out of the amount payable to the defaulting jute mills on all purchases on Government account and to adjust the amount so realised against the outstanding dues.